

Little Elk Basin Trail #892



Photo taken by the Paonia R.D.

After departing the intersection of Trail #890 and Trail #892 the trail climbs rather rapidly through aspen forest to the top of Second Creek Ridge. It then contours around a south facing slope that is covered with sparse timber and brush. This portion of the trail allows good views of a big area to the south and west including Saddle Mountain. The trail comes to another ridge where it enters into the West Elk Wilderness and begins a decent through aspen into Little Elk Basin. This portion of the trail is sometimes hard to follow because of downed timber and poor marking. The last portion of trail before descending into Smith Fork Creek is steep and rocky. After crossing Smith Fork the trail is easily followed as it climbs to the south to join the Throughline Trail. Elk, deer and bear are sometimes seen along this trail as well as domestic livestock.

Trail Ethics:

The Little Elk Basin Trail is maintained for foot and horse travel. Please don't cut across switchbacks or create new



Motors & Machines:

Motorized vehicles and bicycles are not allowed on the Little Elk Basin Trail or in Wilderness areas.



Drinking Water:

DO NOT drink water directly from a river or stream. Water needs to be treated first by either filtering, boiling for at least 10 minutes or treating with iodine tablets.



Multiple use:

As you use this area you may notice that the Forest is managed for a broad range of uses. Recreation use alone includes hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and sightseeing. In addition, the vegetation in the Forest requires some form of management. Livestock grazing is a form of land management you may encounter while using this area. The livestock grazing on this area is managed in a very progressive and specific manner. The fences and gates that you may see are critical to managing the livestock and meeting the resource objectives that are planned for this area. Please close all gates that you open as you travel through the area. Controlling the livestock in the manner that we have planned is important.



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Be prepared for inclement weather at all times.

Familiarize yourself with the area.



Little Elk Basin Trail

#892

Length 5.9 Miles



A view from the Little Elk Basin Trail

**Gunnison National Forest
Paonia Ranger District**



For any questions or comments please contact:

Paonia Ranger District
403 N. Rio Grande Ave., P.O. Box 1030
Paonia, CO 81428

Phone: (970) 527-4131 Fax: (970) 527-4151 or
E-Mail: lbroyles@fs.fed.us or vullrey@fs.fed.us



Little Elk Basin Trail #892

Trail Beginning: The junction with the Inter-ocean Pass Trail #890.

Trail Ending: The junction with the Throughline Trail #860

Access #1: From Crawford go east on Needlerock Road to 4200 Road and follow it to Cottonwood Creek Road. Follow Cottonwood Creek to Forest Road #835 and it to its end. FSR #835 turns into Trail #890, follow it for one mile to Trail #892.

Access #2: From Crawford go east on Needlerock Road, it becomes Forest Road #712 then follow it to the Throughline Trailhead. Follow Trail #860 about 5 miles to the intersection with Trail #892.

Use: Foot and Horse

Recommended Seasons:

Spring Summer Fall Winter

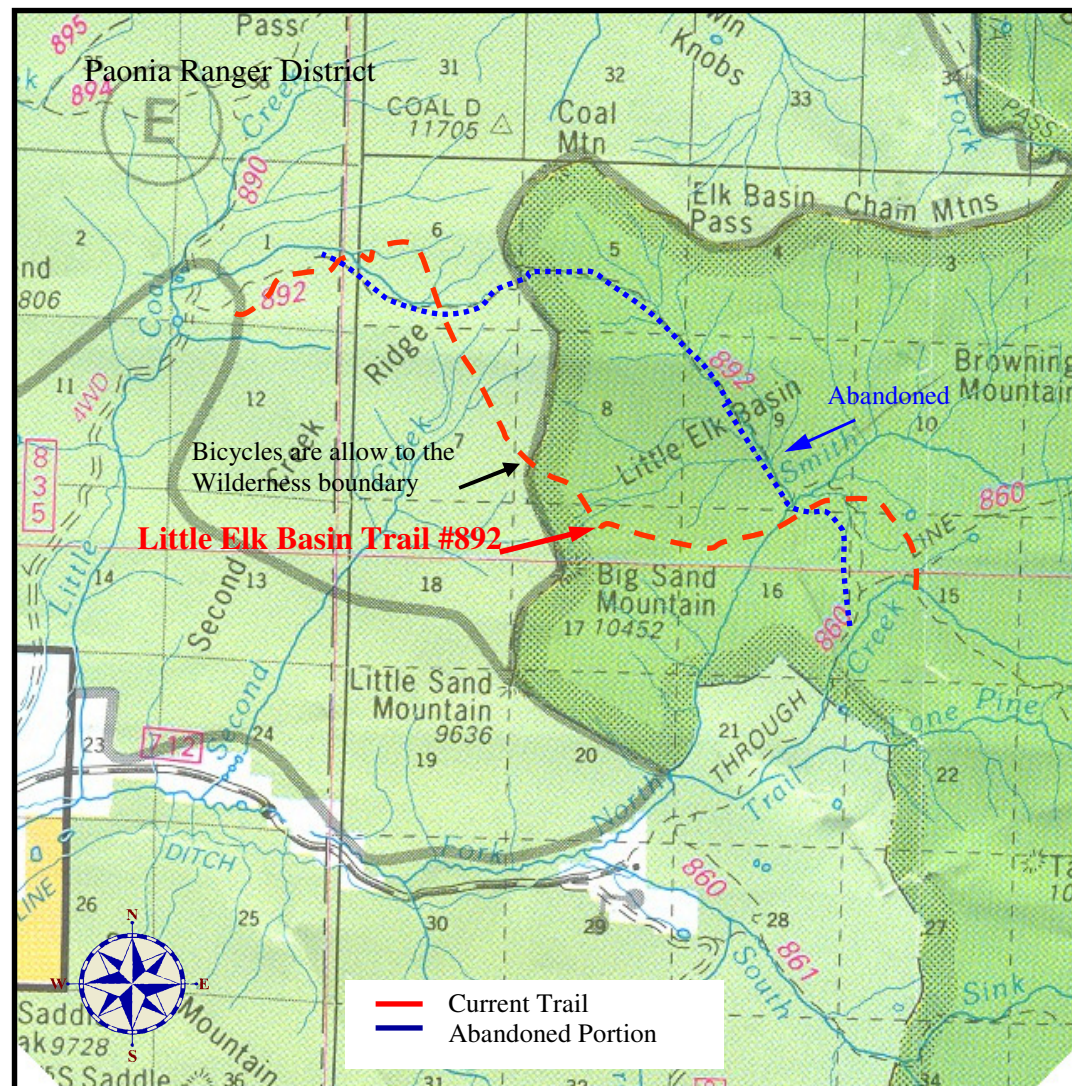
USGS quad maps: Paonia & Minnesota Pass

Dispersed Camping

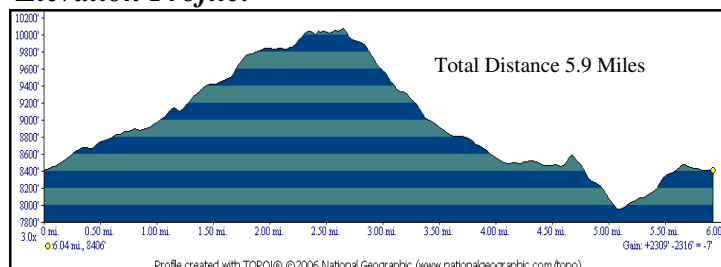
Dispersed camping is permitted in most areas of the Forest. Recreation maps are available at all local Forest Service offices and personnel can answer questions on specific sites. Camping in undeveloped areas requires more from the camper to help keep the site in the condition in which it was found. If you Pack it in-Pack it out!

Fire Safety:

Check in with your local Forest Service office to see if fire bans are in effect.



Elevation Profile:



Don't forget your camera!



- Principles of Leave No Trace:**
1. Plan Ahead & Prepare
 2. Travel & Camp on Durable Surfaces
 3. Dispose of Waste Properly
 4. Leave What You Find
 5. Minimize Campfire Impacts
 6. Respect Wildlife
 7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors